# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3797
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
RECOVERED FOREST AREA
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of Protected Mangrove Forests and Recovered Forest Area (RFA) in the country, State-wise ;

(b) the criteria followed to notify RFA as distinguished from other categories of forest areas ;

(c) the extent to which it has increased the total forest area in the country ;

(d) the area under protected forests and national parks/sanctuaries as percentage of total forest area; and

(e) the difference between protected forests and protected areas ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Forest Survey of India (FSI) assesses the mangrove forests of the country according to their canopy density. The State-wise details of the mangrove forests as per the `State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003` published by FSI are given in Annexure-1. There is no separate information for protected mangrove forests. The State-wise details of RFA defined as Recorded Forest Area in SFR-2003 are given in Annexure-ll.

(b) Recorded Forest Area is the geographical area recorded as forest in Government records,whereas forest cover includes all lands more than one hectare in area with a tree canopy density of more than 10 per cent. The increase/decrease in RFA is due to inclusion/exclusion of forest land by notification by the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments.

(c) Recorded Forest Area (RFA) of the country has increased to 774,740 Sq. Km. as per the SFR-2003.

(d) The area under Protected Forests of the country as per SFR-2003 is 238,434 Sq. Km.constituting 30.78 per cent of the total forest area. The total area under National Parks/Sanctuaries is 156,934 Sq. Km. which is about 22 per cent of total forest area.

(e)Protected Forests means an area notified under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927,whereas Protected Area means a National park, a Wildlife Sanctuary, a conservation reserve or community reserve notified under section 18, 35, 36A and 36C of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.